<u>Addendum for safeguarding policy June 2020 – In response to COVID 19</u>

As we welcome a phased return to education, there are a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available on site at all times
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

  - Staff and volunteers may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person following partial school closures. Please ensure that you follow the procedures and that you are alert to any issues that may arise. If you do have any concerns, then please notify either the DSL or Deputy DSL (LB/SW) by radio or email immediately, including new concerns where children are returning.

  - As a school, we have ensured that DSLs (and deputies) will have more time to support staff and children regarding new concerns (and referrals as appropriate) as more children return.
  - All relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on all children (including returning children) remains accurate. We will ensure that as a school, (led by the DSL or deputy) we should be doing all we reasonably can to ask parents and carers to advise them of any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before a child returns.
  - As the circumstances have changed, peer on peer abuse could be raised due to online gaming etc. The process for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims (the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE should continue).

  - Staff and volunteers should continue to use the whistleblowing policy and safeguarding procedures if they have concerns about a staff member who may pose a safeguarding risk to children (the principles in part 4 of KCSIE will continue to support how a school or college responds to any such concerns).

Bearwood Primary and Nursery school have a variety of procedures in place to keep children safe who are not physically attending the school. These include:
- weekly phone calls to the pupils
- welfare checks
- working with other outside agencies

  - Any updated advice received from the local safeguarding partners is always acted upon where appropriate. DSLs (or deputies) should be leading the school input into the local arrangements.

- DSL's or Deputy DSL acts upon any updated advice received from local authorities regarding children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need.

- We recognise the importance of the continued importance for school and staff to work with and support children's social workers, the local authority virtual school head for looked-after and previously looked-after children and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners. As a school, we are working with agencies through phone calls and video conferencing.

- The DSL (or deputy) should provide support to teachers and pastoral staff to ensure that contact is maintained with children (and their families) who are not yet returning to school and "where possible staff should try and speak directly to children to help identify any concerns." School staff should be encouraged (where possible) to make calls from the school or via school phones and devices. Where staff use personal phones to make calls, they should withhold their personal number.

- Risk assessments for wider opening and related Health and Safety risk assessments are appropriately linked with a school approach to safeguarding and child protection.
- School is working with families to ensure a return to school where vulnerable children in the categories listed above have not been attending.
- Schools should resume taking their attendance register from 1 June and continue to complete the online Educational Setting Status form daily.
- Schools should do all they 'reasonably' can to ensure children at home are safe online, which involves giving their parents sufficient information about this. This can be found on the school website and has been sent on as a reminder each week on the school newsletter.

- Vulnerable children attendance is expected, where it is appropriate for them (that is, where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, and/or following a risk assessment for children with an EHC plan), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending. Vulnerable children – regardless of year group – that have not been attending in the recent period are expected to return to nursery, early years, school or college provision where this would now be appropriate for them to do so. We expect educational providers and other relevant partners to work with and support the relevant families and pupils to return to school or college, where attendance is appropriate. A brief summary of attendance expectations across the different groups of vulnerable children is as follows:

- for vulnerable children who have a social worker, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable (see the advice set out by Public Health England on households with possible coronavirus infection and shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable
- for vulnerable children who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is expected where it is determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- for vulnerable children who are deemed otherwise vulnerable, at the school, college or local authority discretion, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable (see the advice set out by Public Health England on households with possible coronavirus infection and shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable

- Schools and colleges should continue to notify social workers where children with a social worker do not attend. They should also continue to follow up with any parent or carer whose child has been expected to attend and doesn't. To support the above, schools and colleges should take the opportunity when communicating with parents and carers to confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

- Parents and carers will not be penalised if their child does not attend educational provision.

- Schools and colleges should resume taking their attendance register from 1 June and continue to complete the online Educational Setting Status form which gives the Department for Education daily updates on how many children and staff are attending.

<u>Online safety in schools and colleges</u>

- As more children return it will be important that we continue to provide a safe online environment for those who remain at home. Bearwood primary and Nursery school will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children when they are online on the school systems. Teachers have been notified about the YOUTUBE being disabled and will ensure that pupils are monitored when using ICT.

- TurnItOn and the ICT lead will be responsible for the technical knowledge to maintain safe IT arrangements.

Updated 28.05.2020